

WIMBORNE DRAMA

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WIMBORNE DRAMA

Presents

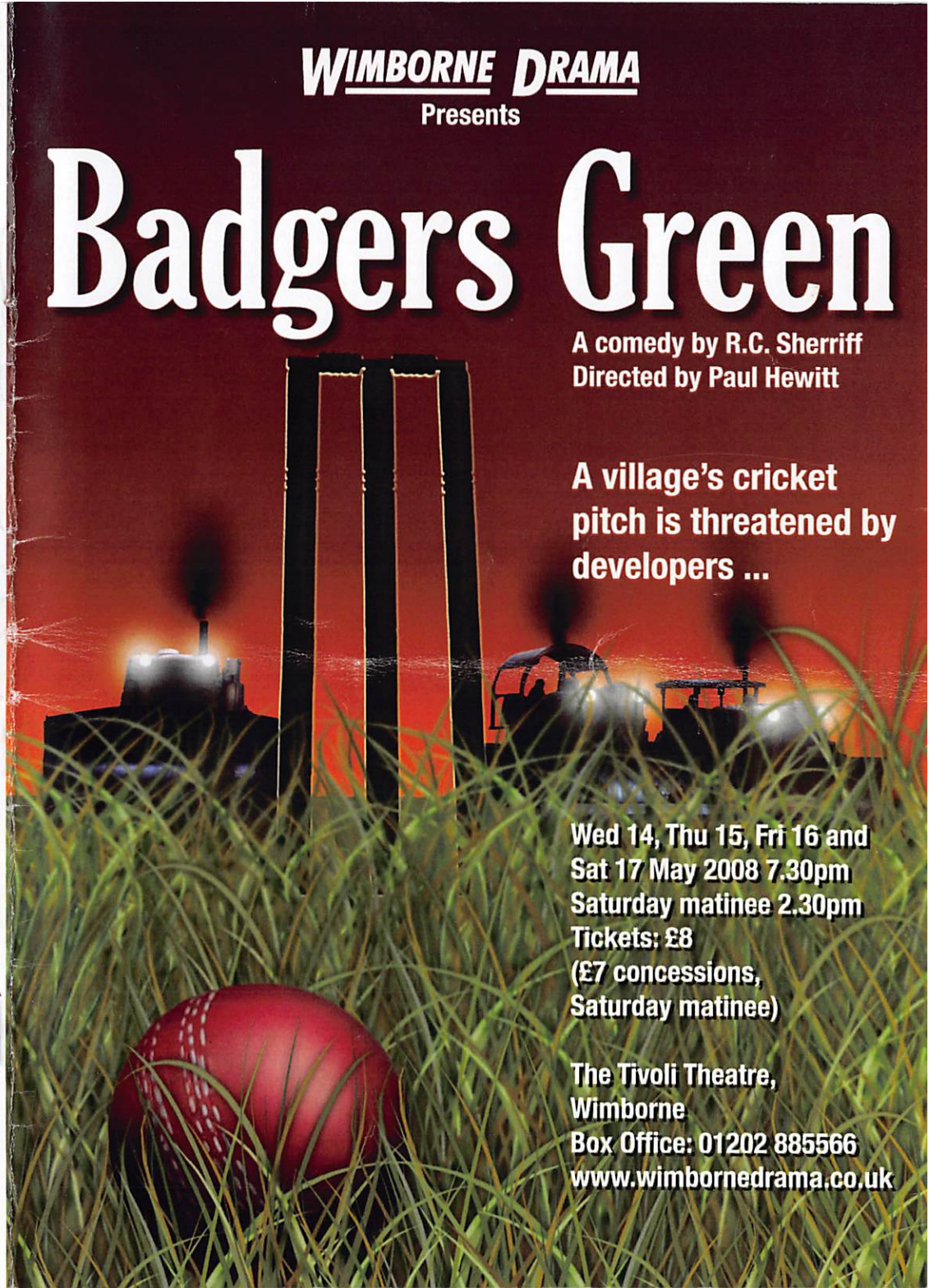
Badgers Green

A comedy by R.C. Sherriff
Directed by Paul Hewitt

A village's cricket
pitch is threatened by
developers ...

Wed 14, Thu 15, Fri 16 and
Sat 17 May 2008 7.30pm
Saturday matinee 2.30pm
Tickets: £8
(£7 concessions,
Saturday matinee)

The Tivoli Theatre,
Wimborne
Box Office: 01202 885566
www.wimbornedrama.co.uk



Mahogany desk kindly provided by Richard Foley of

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Showrooms and workshop at 15 Mill Lane, Wimborne.

Next Production...

Wimborne Drama will return to the Tivoli Theatre in November 2008 with a brand new adaptation of:

CHARLES DICKENS' "GREAT EXPECTATIONS"

Weds 19th to Sat 22nd November 2008

Young Pip's visits to the decrepit Miss Havershaw and her beautiful ward Estella convince him that he is destined for greater things than those offered by Joe Gargery and his family. Pip's journey encapsulates a coterie of Dickensian eccentrics including; loyal Herbert Pocket, the sinister convict Magwitch and the grasping Pocket family.

Wimborne Drama is delighted to be returning to the work of Charles Dickens for the first time since their award winning 2001 production of David Copperfield.

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Patrons of Wimborne Drama



Francis Alton
Peter Barron
Lottie Brown
Lin Chappell
Robin Cook
Maureen Dickson
Michaela Hanham
Roy Joseph
Micheal Medwin
Tina Nicholls
Patricia Pile
Audrey White

Anne Angel
Lynda Bellingham
Darren Butler
Edward Childe
Joyce Curry
D Dodman
Helen Hatton
Diann March
Shelia Morrell
Christine Oliver
Anne Tyson-Brown

Malcolm Angel
Beverley Blehs
Laura Butler
Hugh Cochram
M Denslow
Bob Feltham
Vic Hatton
Brian Marshall
Carol Neal
Anthony Pawley
Julia Thomas

Pat Barron
Micheal Blehs
Shirley Chappell
Pat Cochram
John Dickson
Pamela Feltham
Roy Hudd
Lynn Marshall
Peter Neal
Linda Pawley
Pamela Wood

Join Us...



Wimborne Drama stages three productions each year.

We always welcome new members, with or without previous experience.

As well as those with a liking for acting or directing, people with a keen interest in the less glamorous, but equally valuable backstage roles (set construction, properties, make-up etc) are warmly welcomed into the group.

The group meets the last Thursday of the month to discuss forthcoming productions, events and other business matters. When in rehearsal, we meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

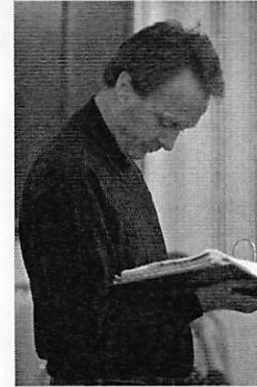
Membership to Wimborne Drama Group costs £30 per year or £15 for juniors (under 16).

If you prefer to sit front of house and enjoy a good night out you might like to become a Patron. For a minimum donation of only £30 per year, patrons of Wimborne Drama enjoy a number of privileges including:

- ❖ A free ticket to each Wimborne Drama production
- ❖ Notification of plays and priority booking service
- ❖ A quarterly newsletter to keep you up-to-date with Wimborne Drama news
- ❖ A free theatre programme for each production
- ❖ An invitation to join the cast and crew for drinks and nibbles after Friday night performances
- ❖ Invitations to other events throughout the year

If you would like further information, please contact Boo our Community Manager on Tel: 01202 885659 or Email: communitymanager@wimbornedrama.co.uk Or visit the website at: www.wimbornedrama.co.uk

Director's Notes



Welcome to Wimborne Drama's latest theatrical production at the Tivoli.

We are delighted to turn back the clock to present a piece that is redolent of English village life between the wars.

Badgers Green is a small peaceful village where committees play a large part in the social fabric and the major controversies are whose wife should be responsible for the cricket teas.

These comfortable minor conflicts diminish significantly on the arrival of a property developer who proposes a major expansion of the village, residentially and commercially. The villagers are divided between those who wish to preserve, and those who seek progress.

This theme appealed to me. As a resident of Poole, I have witnessed many changes to the landscape in the last five years. Whilst accepting the town can't stand still, I question the wisdom of wholesale demolition of existing homes replaced by apartments bought as second homes by wealthy outsiders.

Wimborne is no stranger to this, but the major focus is slightly different. A well know supermarket plans to replace the 100 year-old town cricket pitch with a superstore. The outcome is still unknown.

Although the play dates back to 1929, many of the themes still resonate today. I hope you enjoy the show which I feel is a gentle comedy reminiscent of the classic English pre and post war variety, laced with some thought provoking issues regarding heritage and identity.

Without doubt, this production could not have gone ahead without full support of all those involved from Wimborne Drama. But I must particularly thank Chris Brown and Michaela Slatford and their team for the marketing and promotion, Jackson and Mark Ellen for the set, Stuart Glossop for Stage Management, and Wimborne Drama Chairman Tony Feltham, Carey Fern, Carol and John Bruton, and my wife Carolyn for their tireless efforts and moral support. And finally thanks to my dad for suggesting the play in the first place.

I would also like to thank the Tivoli technical staff for their co-operation and input.

Paul Hewitt, Director

WIMBORNE DRAMA

Presents...

Badgers Green

By R.C. Sherriff

Cast

(In order of appearance)

Dr Wetherby

Mary

Mr Twigg

Major Forrester

Dickie

Mr Butler

The Secretary

Morgan

Mr Rogers

Mrs Wetherby

Mrs Forrester

George

Mrs Evans

Charlie

Albert

Gilbert

The Chauffeur

Jeremy Austin

Carolyn Hewitt

Colin Pile

David Pile

Ryan Clements

Tony Feltham

Michaela Slatford

Andy Cragg

Steve Symonds

Jan Stevenson

Chrissie Neal

Conor Feltham

Caroline Papp

Alfie Tyson-Brown

Edred Tyson-Brown

Chris Brown

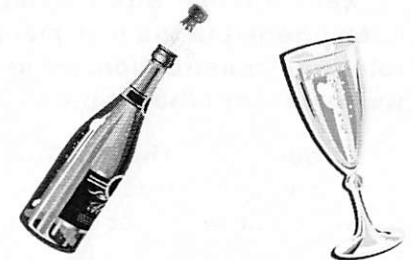
John Bruton

Birthday Party

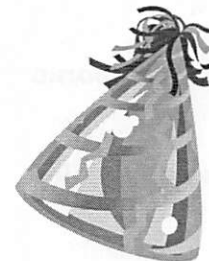


This summer, Wimborne Drama marks its 80th Birthday and plans to celebrate in style!

We are inviting all members, patrons, sponsors, friends and associates of the group, past and present, to get in touch with us.



We will be gathering in the Allendale Centre in Wimborne on Saturday 5th July 2008



There will be entertainment, photographs, video montages and much, much more.

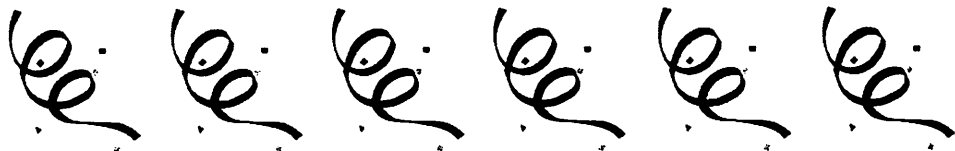
Plenty to jog your memories and plenty to eat and drink!



**For further details, please call Boo on
Tel: 01202 885659 or
Email: reunion@wimboredrama.co.uk**



About Us...



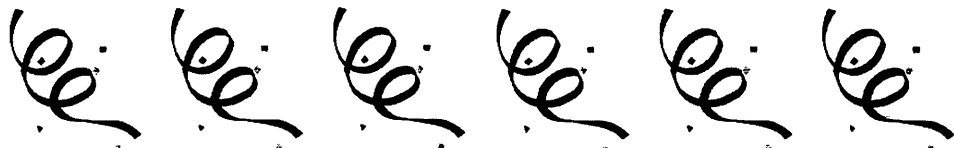
Wimborne Drama was formed in November 1928 by a group of enthusiasts, led by Leonard 'Motty' Mottram who was an English teacher at the Queen Elizabeth Grammar School. The group called themselves 'The Wimborne Dramatic Society'.

The society's original purpose was to be a social club for theatre goers. In 1932 the group took the bold step of actually staging a production. Picking an ambitious first project, *Ambrose Applejohn's Adventure* which had a cast of over forty people and the few remaining photographs show that it was a rather stylish affair.

After the war, the group merged with the Wimborne Operatic Society. This relationship was short lived due to the high-cost of staging operatic productions and a sad but amiable parting took place. The dramatic society re-emerged as Wimborne Drama Club.

Early plays were staged at the Women's Institute Hall until it was demolished, and then at Church House. Fire restrictions caused this venue to be abandoned in favour of the new secondary modern school at Pamphill (Now QE). When the Allendale Centre opened in 1970, the club at last had a permanent home and remained there for the next 24 years.

In 1994 came a major step forward when the Tivoli Theatre re-opened and Wimborne Drama was invited to become the resident amateur group. We haven't looked back since!



Creative Team

Director
Stage Manager
Prompt
Costumes
Set Design

Paul Hewitt
Stewart Glossop
Carol Bruton
Carolyn Hewitt
Jackson Ellen
Mark Ellen

Back Stage Crew

Rob Cording
Bob Hucklesby
Richard Neal
Tracey Nicholls
Penny Pearson
Simon Jackson

Poster Design
Trailer Design
Programme Design
Publicity

Simon Priestley
Kevin Wilkins
Michaela Slatford
Chris Brown
Ellie Cowley
Stuart Glossop

Photography

Tony Feltham
Andy Cragg

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For the Tivoli Theatre

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Russell Parker
& his team

***This play is dedicated to Ray Sargent,
friend and patron of Wimborne Drama***

R. C. Sherriff



R. C. Sherriff was born in 1896 and educated at Kingston Grammar School and New College, Oxford. He entered his father's insurance business, but shortly after, on the outbreak of the First World War, he joined the army, and served as a Captain in the East Surrey Regiment. He rejoined the business in 1918 and spent ten years as a claims adjuster.

It was an interest in amateur theatricals, which led him to try his hand at writing. After rejection by many theatre managements, *Journey's End* was given a single Sunday evening performance by the Incorporated Stage Society in 1928. Laurence Olivier played Stanhope on that occasion.

In 1929, *Journey's End* was produced at the Savoy Theatre.

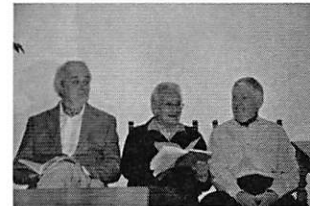
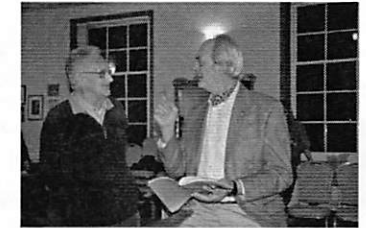
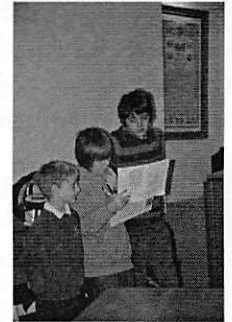
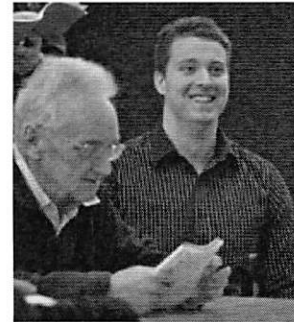
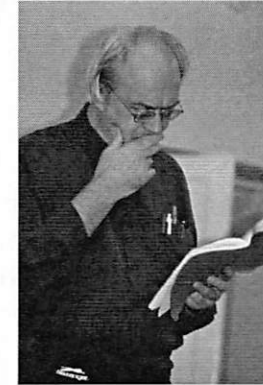
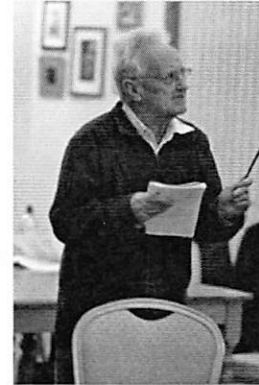
The play's enormous success, in both Europe and America, enabled Sherriff to become a full-time writer.

Badgers Green was written shortly afterwards in 1930. Among his other plays are: *Windfall* (1933); *St Helena* (1935), a play about Napoleon, written in collaboration with Jeanne de Casalis; *Miss Mabel* (1948); *Home at Seven* (1950); *The White Carnation* (1953) and *Long Sunset* (1955), a vivid picture of the last day of Roman civilisation in Britain.

Sherriff wrote screen plays for many films including: *The Invisible Man* (1933); *Goodbye Mr Chips* (1933); *The Four Feathers* (1937); *Lady Hamilton* (1941); *Odd Man Out* (1945); *Quartet* (1948); *No Highway* (1950) and *The Dam Busters* (1955). He published his autobiography, *No Leading Lady* in 1968.

Sherriff at one time owned Downhouse Farm at Higher Eype, near Bridport in West Dorset. He gave the farm to the National Trust in 1966 and then went to live with his mother in a large house called Rosebriars in Esher. He died there on 13th November 1975.

In Rehearsal...



Cast & Crew cont...

Caroline Papp: a Leadership and Career Coach, joined WD in Jan 08. This is her first production with the group. Her tippie of choice is Krug Champagne and her favourite pub is the Bat and Ball in Cuddesdon.

Penny Pearson: a Graphic Designer who joined WD in 2004. Her favourite role was playing Paige in *Roleplay*. Penny's tippie of choice is red wine.

Colln Pile: a Computer Engineer, joined WD in 2000. His favourite part with the group was playing Melchior in *On the Razzle*. Another fan of Ian Botham, his tippie of choice is Tangle Foot. His favourite line in *Badgers Green* is "oh, yes I stuff all my own fish."

David Pile: a retired Ambulance Officer, joined WD in 1998. His favourite part with the group was playing Dr Willis in *The Madness of King George*. David rates Ian Botham as his favourite cricket player and vodka and lime as his tippie of choice. His best line in the play is "all those I can remember!"

Michaela Slatford: a Marketing Manager joined WD in 2007. Her favourite role was playing Sophia in *The Talented Mr Ripley*. Michaela's tippie of choice is red wine and Bollinger Champagne for special occasions. Her favourite line in the play is "We must have a committee meeting on our own and fix up crowds of things".

Jan Stevenson: Joined WD in 1979. Jan said that playing Madam Arcati in *Blythe Spirit* is high on her favourite role list. Her favourite cricket player is Darren Gough and her tippie of choice is red wine. Jan's favourite line in the play is "Arthur will be tired tomorrow! Out there in that awful sun!"

Steve Symonds: a Lorry Driver, joined the group in Feb 2008. This is his first performance with WD. His tippie of choice is Glenfiddich which he likes to drink in the Black Horse pub. Steve's favourite line in the play is "You can't ot that up in ere!"

Alfie Tyson-Brown: a Student who joined WD in 1999. His favourite part with the group was playing Private Broughton and a German Boy in *Journey's End*. His favourite pub is The Vine in Pamphill.

Edred Tyson-Brown: This is Edred's first WD show and he is very excited to be involved. His favourite drink is hot chocolate.

History of Cricket



The origins of the game of cricket are lost in the mists of time. There is a reference in the household accounts of Edward 1 in 1300 of a game like cricket being played in Kent. It seems clear that the English game originated in the sheep-rearing country of the South East, where the short grass of the downland pastures made it possible to bowl a ball of wool or rags at a target. That target was usually the wicket-gate of the sheep pasture, which was defended with a bat in the form of a shepherd's crooked staff.

By the 17th century the game was quite popular as a rough rural pastime, but in the following century the leisure classes took up the sport, particularly in Sussex, Kent and London. We know that an organised match was held at the Artillery Grounds in Finsbury in 1730. By the middle of the 18th century cricket was being played at every level of society, from village greens to wealthy estates. However, the game lacked a coherent set of rules.

The first and most influential cricket club in the land was formed at Hambledon, Hampshire, in the 1760's. The club was sponsored by wealthy patrons, but the players were local tradesmen and farmers. The Hambledon club established techniques of batting and bowling which still hold today, and Hambledon claims a page in history as the "Birthplace of Cricket".

The centre of power of the game soon shifted to London, most notably with the establishment of the Marylebone Cricket Club which had its headquarters at Lord's ground. In 1835 the club gave cricket its first formal laws, which still stand largely intact today. A major boost for the sport was provided by public schools such as Eton, Harrow and Winchester. Cricket proved so popular among the students that an annual match called Gentlemen vs. Players took place at Lord's from 1806 - 1963.

In England the major focus of the game today is the county championships, with both four-day and one-day competitions running simultaneously during the summer months. Traditional village cricket is still played in towns and villages all across the UK.

Cast & Crew

Jeremy Austin: an Electronics Designer who joined Wimborne Drama (WD) in 1995. Jeremy has two favourite roles with the group. The first was Charles in *Blithe Spirit* and he satisfied a life-long ambition playing Thomas in *Murder in the Cathedral*. According to his wife, Gary Sobers is a great cricket player. Jeremy's tippie of choice is martini and his favourite line in *Badgers Green* is "You will be ruined, but don't worry!".

Chris Brown: a Social Worker, Town Crier and The Rock N Roll DJ has been a member of Wimborne Drama (WD) since 1999. His favourite part with the group was directing *Journey's End*. Chris says that W.G. Grace with "his inspiration beard" is his favourite cricket player. Chris's best line in *Badgers Green* is "Look 'ere' I'll send you all 'ome if you don't take care! Go on! 'Op it!".

Carol Bruton: a Medical Administrator joined WD in 2005. Her favourite role with the group was when she was the prompt for *Dial M for Murder*. Carol rates Colin Cowdrey as a cricketer and her tippie of choice is champagne.

John Bruton: a retired Chartered Surveyor who joined WD in 2005. His favourite part with the group was playing Doctor Hubner in *The Government Inspector* (his only role to date). John rates Len Hutton as a cricketer and his tippie of choice is draught bitter. His favourite line in the play is "He's got it!".

Ryan Clements: a Multi Insurance Advisor who joined WD in Jan 2008. Ryan recently played the part of Freddie in *The Talented Mr Ripley*. His tippie of choice is lager which he likes to drink in any pub with a pre 20th century feel. His favourite line in the play is "stand for charabanes".

Andy Cragg: a Company Director joined WD in 2006. His favourite role with the group was playing Detective and Journalist in *Dial M for Murder*. Andy's tippie of choice is red wine. Andy's favourite pub is The Museum in Farnham.

Rob Cording: a student taking an early gap year and a member of WD since 2007. His favourite part for the club was playing Tom Ripley in *The Talented Mr Ripley*, his big break!

Conor Feltham: joined WD in 2008. This is his first part for the group. His favourite drink is coke and he likes the Lambs Green Inn.

Tony Feltham: a Web Developer and a member of WD since 1984. His favourite part with the group was playing Lord Fancourt Babberley in *Charleys Aunt*. His tippie of choice is Kronenbourg 1664 and he likes to drink in The White Hart. Tony's favourite line in *Badgers Green* is "I couldn't do it, I don't know the village people".

Stuart Glossop: a professional idiot (his own words), joined WD in 2003. His favourite roles for the group were playing Osborne in *Journey's End* and directing *The Talented Mr Ripley*. Stuart's tippie of choice is whiskey .

Carolyn Hewitt: an Area Manager who has been a member of the club since 1977. Her favourite part with the group was playing Connle in *Habeus Corpus*. Carolyn rates Ryan Sidebottom as a cricketer and her tippie of choice is white wine. Her favourite line in *Badgers Green* is "What, instead of billiards?".

Paul Hewitt: a Company Accountant and a member of WD since 1988. His favourite play to have been a part of was *Lark Rise*. Paul rates Keith Miller as a cricket player and his tippie of choice is Abbott's real ale. His favourite line in *Badgers Green* is "A sanitary laundry in front of my house! Not while there's breath in my body!"

Bob Hucklesby: an accountant who joined the group in 2001. His favourite role was playing Mr Purdue in *Habeus Corpus*. Bob rates Malcolm Marshall as a cricket player and his tippie of choice is bitter.

Simon Jackson: joined WD in 1977. His favourite part for the group was playing Herr Winkelkopf in *Lord Arthur Saville's Crime*. His favourite cricket player is Alec Bedser as he signed an autograph for Simon when he was seven. His tippie of choice is shiraz wine.

Chrissie Neal: a member of the group since 1986. Her favourite part was playing Mrs Danvers in *Rebecca*. Chrissie states that her favourite cricket player is Ian Botham and her tippie of choice is white wine. Her best line in *Badgers Green* is "It's such a big business".

Richard Neal: a Project Manager who joined WD in 1993. His favourite roles for the group were directing *On the Razzle* and playing Inspector Truscott in *Loot*. Richard rates Botham, Willis and Gower as cricket players.

Tracey Nicholls: a Parish Administrator and member of WD since 2001. Her favourite part was acting in *On the Razzle*. She rates Mark Ramprakash as a cricketer "for his dancing" and her tippie of choice is a lovely cool glass of white wine.